NAKAJIMA -- 10/063,102 Client/Matter: 007874-0303960

REMARKS

Claims 1-38 were pending, claims 39-42 being withdrawn from consideration. By this Amendment, claims 1, 3, 4, 7-10, 20-24, 26-29, and 39-42 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, claims 5, 6, 12-17, 25, and 31-38 are amended, and new claim 43 is added.

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's notice that claims 2, 11, 18, 19, and 30 are allowable. Applicant also appreciates the Examiner's notice that claims 5, 6, 9, 10, 12-17, 24, 29, and 31-38 would be allowable if amended to overcome the Examiner's objection and incorporate each of their respective base claims. In response to the Examiner's objection to the use of the word "A" in the first line of each dependent claim, Applicant has amended every dependent claim to recite "The" instead of "A." Applicant has amended allowable claims 5 and 6 to incorporate the subject matter of each of their respective base claims. Applicant has amended claim 25 to incorporate the subject matter of allowable claim 37. New claim 43 includes the subject matter of allowable claim 38 and its base claim 25.

Applicant believes that the present application is in order for allowance, and notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Please charge any fees associated with the submission of this paper to Deposit Account Number 033975. The Commissioner for Patents is also authorized to credit any over payments to the above-referenced Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

PILLSBURY WINTHROP LLP

Benjamin L. King BENJAMIN L. KIERSZ

Reg. No. 51875

Tel. No. (703) 905-2114

Fax No. (703) 905-2114

Date: February 19, 2004 P.O. Box 10500 McLean, VA 22102 (703) 905-2000